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THE NEW AVENGERS
ILLUMINATI
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THE NEW AVENGERS
ILLUMINATI

The Illuminati is a secret organization comprised of several of the world's most powerful heroes: Sorcerer Supreme Doctor Strange, Black Bolt, King of the Inhumans, Charles Xavier, founder of the X-Men and mutant rights activist, Reed Richards, founding member of the Fantastic Four, Namor the Sub-Mariner, Ruler of Atlantis and Iron Man, founding member of the Avengers.

These six men have worked together to mold and shape the status of the superhuman world and the world around it.

To keep the trust between the group members, the Illuminati's existence is a secret to everyone, including their teammates and families.

How and what they have done together has remained a mystery...until now...

Years ago, a war between the Kree and the Skrulls, two interstellar races of unimaginably advanced technology, raged not only across the stars, but on the surface of the Earth itself.

The mighty Avengers were able to keep the threat at bay, eventually disabling the Skrull attack fleet and bringing the conflict to an end.

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YEARS AGO...
TRANSLATED FROM THE SKRULL LANGUAGE
THE WAR WITH THE KREE IS OVER.
OUR ENTIRE FLEET WAS PARALYZED BY A SINGLE MAN FROM THIS BACKWARD PLANET EARTH...
A SINGLE HUMAN!
AND I WANT AN EXPLANATION AS TO HOW THIS DISGUSTING THING IS POSSIBLE!
WE ARE, BY ANY AND ALL DEFINITIONS, THE SUPERIOR RACE!
IT HAS BEEN FORETOLD THAT THE EARTH PLANET IS OURS TO TAKE.
HAS IT NOT BEEN FORETOLD OF THE SKRULLWORLD'S EVENTUAL DESTRUCTION AND OUR TAKING OF THE EARTH PLANET?
SO HOW IS IT THAT WE DO NOT HAVE THE EARTH PLANET?
HOW DOES IT COME TO PASS THAT WE, A TRUE WARRIOR RACE, HAVE BEEN BROUGHT A DEFEAT LARGER THAN ANY OUR PEOPLE HAVE EVER KNOWN BEFORE?
YOUR HIGHNESS, THE SKRULL MILITARY WAS NOT PREPARED FOR THE KREE ARMY AND THE INTERVENTION OF--
TO FINISH THAT THOUGHT WILL BE YOUR DEATH!
I BEG YOU...YOUR-- YOUR HOLIEST OF ALL HOLIES...
THE EARTH HAS AN UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER OF UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS.
A POPULATION OF WHAT THEY CALL HOMO SUPERIOR--
--WHAT WE WOULD CALL GENETIC ATROCITIES THAT WOULD BE KILLED AT BIRTH...
ON THAT DISGUSTING PLANET THEY LIVE AND FUNCTION IN THEIR DIFFERENT SOCIETIES.
THIS GROUP, THE MUTANTS, GROWS BY THE THOUSANDS EVERY YEAR.
WITH THIS SITUATION ESCALATING, ALONG WITH THE SO-CALLED SUPER HEROES, AND THE COMPETITION WITH THE KREE...
...WE SIMPLY CANNOT EXPECT TO CONQUER THE EARTH PLANET WITH A FRONTAL ATTACK--
YOUR HIGHNESS..

...MY NAME IS DOCTOR REED RICHARDS OF THE EARTH'S FANTASTIC FOUR.
AND I AM IRON MAN OF THE AVENGERS.
I AM PRINCE NAMOR, RULER OF ATLANTIS.
I AM DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS.
AND I AM PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER.
I AM ONE OF THE "GENETIC ATROCITIES" YOU WERE JUST REFERRING TO.
BESIDE ME IS BLACK BOLT, RULER OF THE INHUMANS.

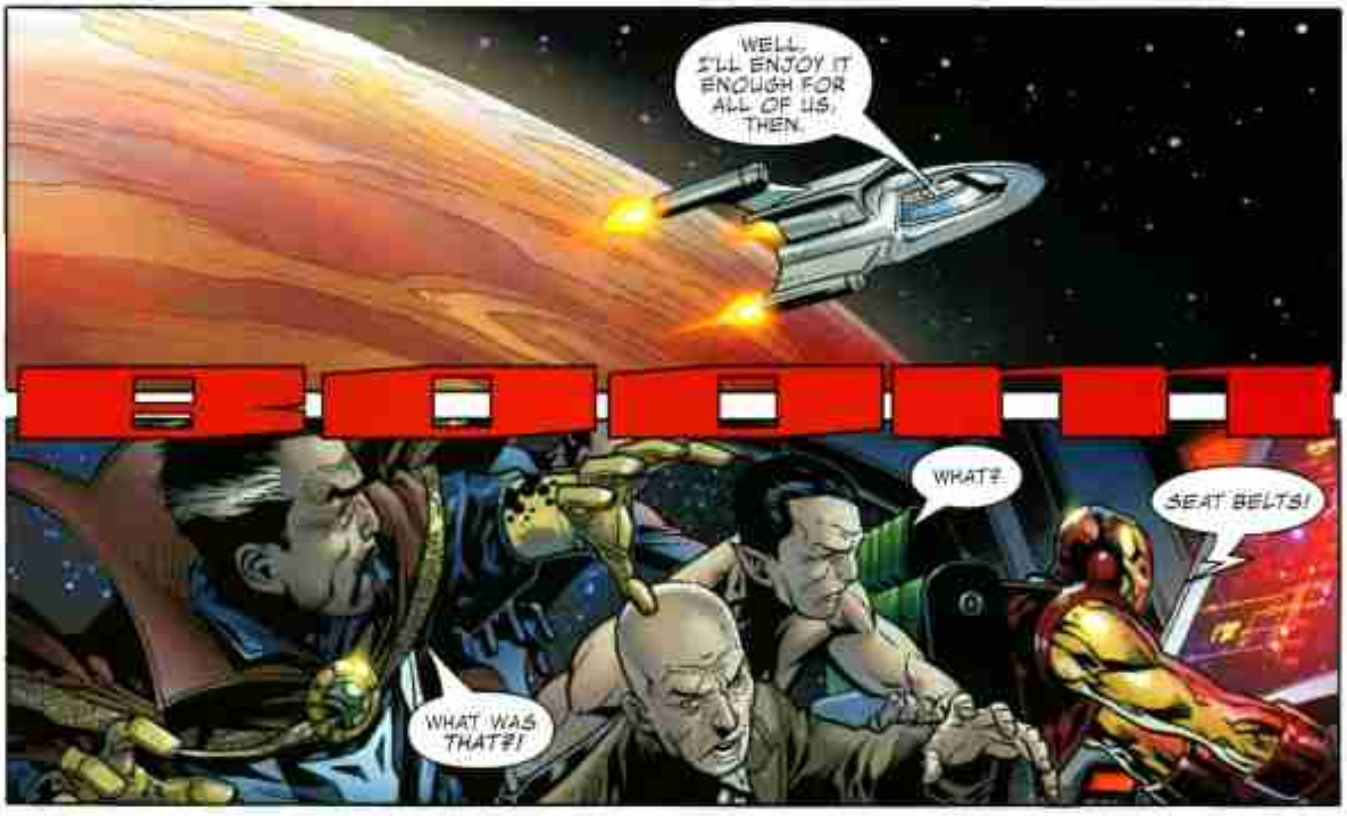
WE CAME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE ANOTHER INVASION ATTEMPT ON THE EARTH.
IF YOU EVEN SO MUCH AS APPROACH EARTH SPACE, IT WILL FORCE US TO GATHER AND COME AT YOU WITH MANPOWER YOU COULD NOT IMAGINE.
THIS IS A WARNING.
YOU COME AT US EVER AGAIN, AND WE'LL COME AT YOU.
HOW DARE YOU COME HERE AND THREATEN ME IN MY OWN HOME?
THE EARTH PLANET IS OURS!
I'M TELLING YOU, IT IS NOT AND NEVER WILL BE.
DO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER?
EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF YOUR SPECIES WILL DIE UNDER MY RULE.
AND YOUR FAMILIES...WILL BE THE FIRST BLOOD I TASTE.
WELL, OBVIOUSLY, I'M SORRY TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.
DOCTOR...
I'M READY.
BLACK BOLT. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

FAWWWWOOPH!
HOLD ON!

HA-HAAA!
LOOK AT THAT!

REJOICE. THAT WAS PERFECTLY EXECUTED.
WE DID WHAT WE HAD TO DO..
WE DON'T HAVE TO ENJOY IT.
WHY NOT? THEY ALREADY TRIED TO KILL US AND TAKE OUR PLANET. AND THEY WERE PLANNING TO TRY IT AGAIN.

WE DID NOT START THIS.


WELL, I'LL ENJOY IT ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US, THEN.
WHAT?
SEAT BELTS!
WHAT WAS THAT?!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THIS SHIP WAS CLOAKED!
I THOUGHT IT WAS! DOCTOR?
AGH!
I'M DOING WHAT I CAN!
I AM TRYING TO GET INSIDE THE PILOTS' MINDS AND FORCE THEM TO BREAK OFF THE ATTACK.
I JUST NEED A FEW MORE--
BOOM
DAMN!

TELL THE KING THAT TODAY IS A GOOD DAY FOR THE EMPIRE AFTER ALL.
OUR EARLY STUDIES AND SAMPLINGS OF THE EARTH PRISONERS ARE VERY INTERESTING.
THIS GROUP OF EARTH "HEROES" IS A GENEROUS GATHERING OF UNIQUE GENETIC SPECIMENS FOR US TO STUDY AND DISSECT.
WE FINALLY GET TO TEST OUR THEORIES ON REED RICHARDS' BIOLOGY.
INDEED.
I AM CURIOUS TO SEE JUST WHAT THE UPPER LIMITS OF HIS EXTENSION ARE...
AND NOW WE KNOW THAT THE ONE CALLED NAMOR IS NOT SO MUCH AN UNDERWATER SPECIES AS HE IS ACTUALLY WHAT THEY REFER TO AS HOMO SUPERIOR.
SUPERIOR?
WELL, TO A HUMAN.
KEEP THIS ONE'S MOISTURE LEVEL AT 0.4 PERCENT.
BUT DON'T KILL HIM UNTIL WE'VE GOTTEN WHAT WE NEED.
"SUPERIOR."
I KNOW. I ENJOYED THAT AS WELL.

THIS INHUMAN "BLACK BOLT'S" VOCAL CORDS HAVE BEEN IMMOBILIZED.
DID YOU TEAR THEM OUT?
NO.
WE HAVE YET TO DETERMINE HOW HE GENERATES SUCH A DESTRUCTIVE FORCE FROM SOUND WAVES.
TEARING THEM OUT WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH COULD DESTROY THE ENTIRE CITY-STATE.
THESE INHUMANS. THESE KREE-SPAWN. HAVE YOU READ ABOUT THEIR TERRIGEN MISTS?
IT'S SO PERVERSE.
HIS DEATH WILL BE LOVELY.
I'VE INVITED MY FAMILY.

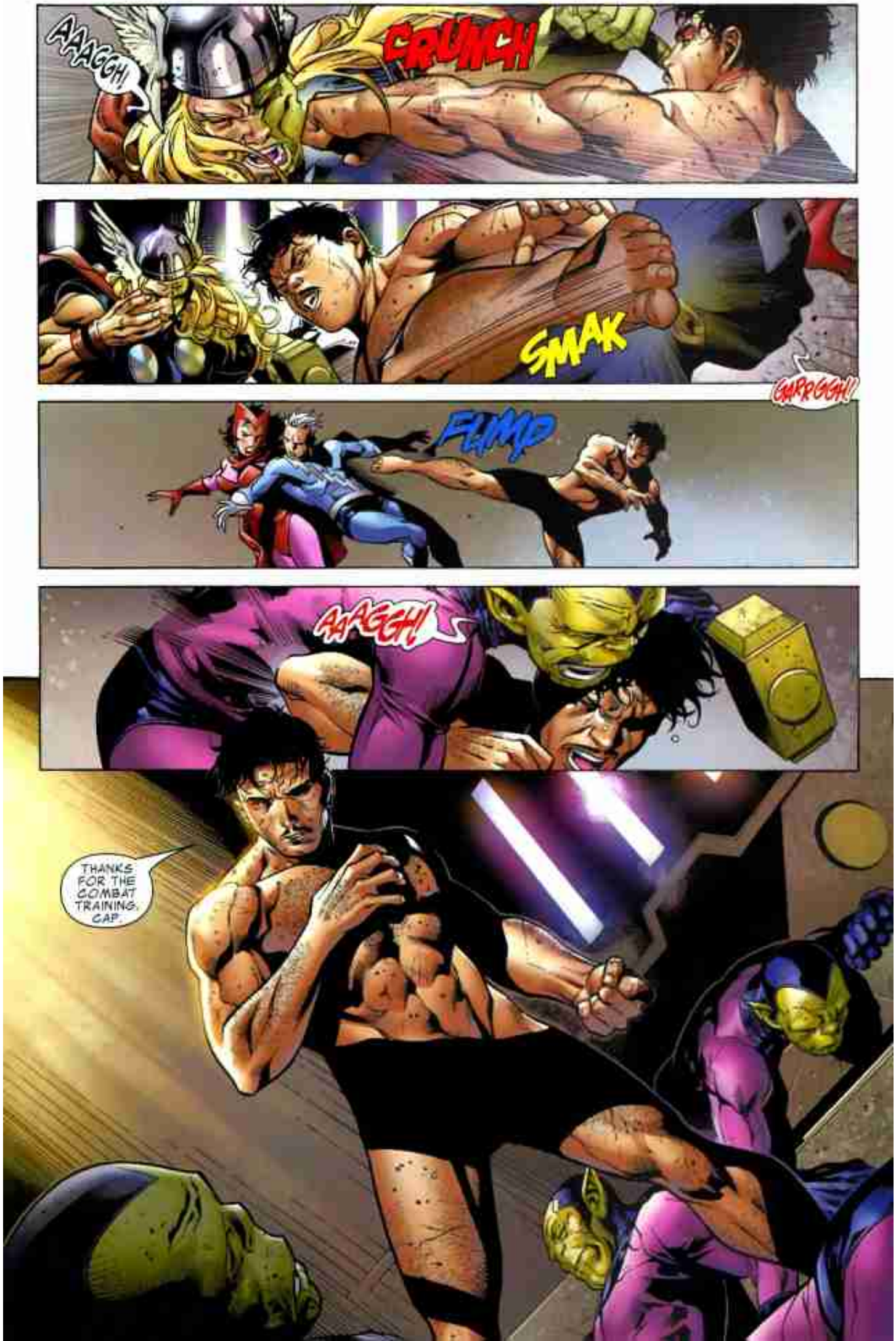
NOW THIS MUTANT HAS PROVED EASIEST TO EXPLORE.
YES.
SINCE WE KNOW THE ORIGIN OF HIS POWERS IS THE MUTANT GENOME--
--BREAKING DOWN HIS DNA BEFORE WE DISSECT HIM IS NO PROBLEM AT ALL.

BUT THIS--THIS SORCERER--
THE MAGICIAN.
THIS CONFOUNDS US. WE HAD TO CALL IN THE PRIESTS FROM THE VOUDOO ISLANDS. THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY.
THEN WE'LL OPEN HIM UP.
OH YES, RIGHT AFTER.

THE AVENGER IRON MAN--
HE IS JUST A FRAGILE, PLACID HUMAN BEING WHO HAS ENCASED HIMSELF IN A RATHER PRIMITIVE ROBOTIC ARMOR.
WHILE ADVANCED BY HIS OWN CIVILIZATION'S STANDARDS--
--IT IS NOTHING OF CONCERN NOW THAT IT'S BEEN DISMANTLED.
IT'S TO GO IN THE ROYAL TROPHY ROOM.
THE ONLY INTERESTING ASPECT IS THAT THIS ARMOR WAS KEEPING STARK'S HEART VALVES WORKING.

"WE'LL SEE HOW LONG HE SURVIVES WITHOUT IT."
"THAT WILL BE FUN."
UNNHH... OKAY...
NEED TO BREATHE AND...
...JUST NEED TO FOCUS.
BOOM
BOOM
AAGGHH!
STOP THEM!
ZZAATOOOM

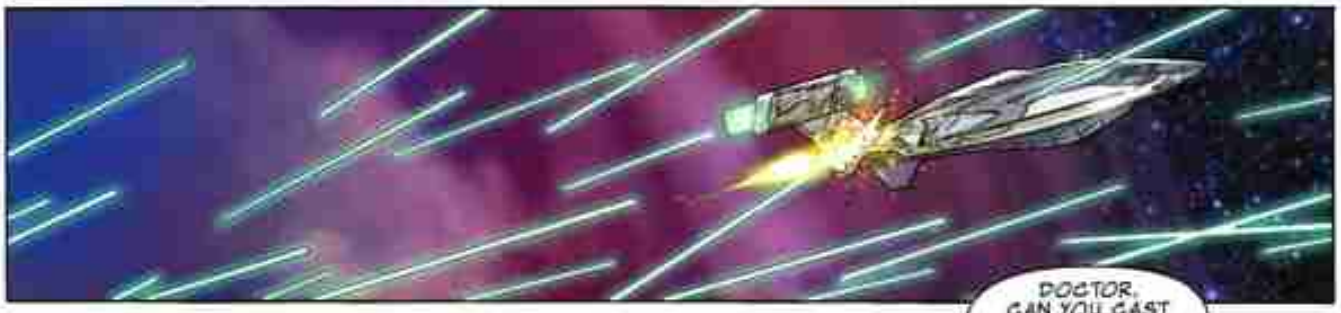
IRON MAN, IT SEEMS THOU ART IN NEED OF SOME FRIENDLY ASSISTANCE!
WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU, PAL.
GET UP! WE GOT TO GO...NOW!
REALLY? WOW.
YOU KNOW...
...THE PROBLEM WITH THE SKRULL EMPIRE IS, YOU SEEM TO TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN ALWAYS UNDERESTIMATING YOUR OPPONENTS.
IN OTHER WORDS, HOW DUMB DO YOU THINK I AM?
I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A WASTE OF TIME!
THIS IS NOT THE WAY TO GET INFORMATION FROM HIM. WE HAVE TO DISSECT HIM. AND THAT'S--
NO, NO, WAIT.
THIS IS INTERESTING.
WHY--?
BECAUSE HE--HE DOESN'T EXPECT HIS TEAMMATES TO COME RESCUE HIM.
NO ONE KNOWS THEY CAME HERE.
NO ONE'S COMING TO RESCUE HIM!
CRACK
AGH!


AAAGGH!
CRUNCH
SMAK
GARRGGH!
FLIMP
AAAGGH!
THANKS FOR THE COMBAT TRAINING, CAP.

SCHOOM
SCHOOM
SCHOOM
AAGGH! AGGHH!
YEARRGGHH!
NOOO!
YOU OKAY, CHARLES?
NOOOO...
NNN... STOPP...
CHARLES? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO. NOT REALLY.
STOP...
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SEE MY ARMOR?
NO.
TONY, YOUR HEART...
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
YOU AREN'T GOING TO MAKE IT MUCH--
WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?
THAT WAY...

UUH!
I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HIT SOMETHING.
SCHOOM
BE MY GUEST.
HOW MANY SHIPS?
NO. THE ARMADA HAS BEEN CALLED. WE HAVE TO LEAVE.
THE ARMADA. ALL OF THEM.
SCHOOM
THE EYE. WE CAN'T LEAVE THE EYE OF AGAMOTTO.
GO!
TONY!
ARGH!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH HIM?
IT'S HIS HEART. HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS ARMOR.
TONY! LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT MY EYES!
FRADANAZ TYLYU!
NOW LET'S GO.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME, DOCTOR?
SCHOOM
JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING TO KEEP YOUR HEART PUMPING TILL WE GET HOME.
LET'S JUST GRAB RICHARDS AND GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE--
SCHOOM
DON'T PUSH IT, TONY. IT'S ONLY...
OH MY GOD...

BLACK BOLT WANTS YOU TO OPEN THE BACK POD-BAY!
NO!
WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE!



DOCTOR, CAN YOU CAST AN ILLUSION SPELL OF SOME KIND?!
NOTHING THAT--AGH--THAT WILL FOOL THAT MANY--

WHAT IF I HELP "SELL" IT PSYCHICALLY?

THE IMAGES OF IKONN...

UH...

SCHOOM
MONSTERS!

BOOOM

WHICH ONE DO WE TAKE?
THE BIG ONE.
IT'S A LONG WAY HOME.
CAN YOU FLY A SKRULL SHIP?
THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE WAY I'LL EVER KNOW FOR SURE.

HOLD ON!

BY THE HOARY HOSTS OF...

GALACTUS!
NOOO!

THEY WILL COME FOR US.
THEY WERE COMING FOR US ALREADY.
NAMOR IS RIGHT.
BUT, HEY, WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF THEY DO COME AT US, THE FIGHT WILL BE A REAL FIGHT.
MAYBE NOW THEY'LL LOOK FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO PICK ON.
WELL, AT LEAST NOW THEY KNOW IT'LL BE A GOOD FIGHT.

YOUR EXCELLENCE, THE DAMAGE REPORT IS...
STOP.
DID WE GET WHAT WE NEEDED FROM THEM?
YES, YOUR EXCELLENCE.
THEN IT WAS WORTH IT.
TELL THE PRIESTS OF THE SCIENCES TO GET TO WORK.
THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO.
TELL THEM NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES--
I'LL WAIT.
NEXT ISSUE:
INFINITY GAUNTLET

KRYPTONIA

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